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marked by an intimate acquaintance with the works of the artists whose lives are narrated. Few persons have written more justly of the great Italian masters, or with keener perception of their various merits.

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9. — *A Select Glossary of English Words, used formerly in Senses different from their Present.* By RICHARD CHENEVIX TRENCH, D. D., Dean of Westminster, etc., etc. New York: Redfield. 1859. 12mo. pp. xi. and 218.

DEAN TRENCH has rendered a useful service by his pleasant and instructive contributions to philology, and we cordially recognize the new obligation which he has imposed on his readers. Few men have been able to import more of wit and wisdom into a study which, to the uninitiated, seems dry and barren; and, like his previous treatises on kindred topics, his last volume bears all the marks of having been prepared *con amore*. It has all the freshness, vivacity, and amplitude of illustration noticeable in his previous works; and though it is cast in the form of a glossary, it contains much that is entertaining reading, and some curious extracts from our older writers. We have not counted the articles in the volume; but the author must have enumerated not less than four hundred words, "which, as current with us as they were with our forefathers, yet mean something different on our lips from what they meant upon theirs." These are illustrated by about a thousand different citations, nearly all of which are claimed as the fruits of the Dean's own researches, and many of which would be valuable merely as extracts. Obviously, in such a glossary, accuracy of definition and precision in marking the variations in the meaning of words are the most important requisites. But next in importance to these we must place the appropriateness and intrinsic merit of the illustrative citations. In each of these respects, Dean Trench has been eminently successful.

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10. — *Idyls of the King.* By ALFRED TENNYSON, D. C. L., Poet Laureate. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1859. 16mo. pp. 227.

FEW volumes of poetry, within our recollection, have been received with more general favor, or have more richly merited it, than has this latest fruit of Mr. Tennyson's genius. Recurring to a field of literature peculiarly rich in inspiration to the poet, and to a kind of verse in which he has won some of his brightest and most enduring laurels, he has here achieved a new triumph. Relinquishing, or postponing, a